



JOEL KITCHENS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Contact: Rep. Joel Kitchens
(608) 266-5350

Rep. Kitchens pleased with Fincantieri upgrade plans

STURGEON BAY, Wis. – Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) is pleased that Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding is planning to upgrade its shipyard equipment and facilities to assist with work on the Navy’s new guided-missile frigate.

“At a time when many businesses across our country and state are either closing or downsizing, it is reassuring to know that Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding remains strong and has its eye toward the future,” Rep. Kitchens said.

Leadership at Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding has told Rep. Kitchens that his efforts with the Wisconsin Harbor Assistance Program have played a factor in allowing the company to enhance its local operations.

Back in 2015, Rep. Kitchens fought to restore the Harbor Assistance Program funding that was stripped in the governor’s budget proposal. Because of budget motions submitted by Rep. Kitchens, Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding has received more than \$6 million from the program over the past several years.

The improvements made by Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding with this funding have given the company the ability to accommodate heavier vessels and increase its overall winter capacity.

Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding’s latest project is being made possible through a partnership with its sister shipyard, Fincantieri Marinette Marine, which was recently awarded a nearly \$800 million contract to build a first-in-class frigate for the Navy. The Navy can also exercise options for nine additional ships at \$5.5 billion.

Although the new upgrades will take place within its existing shipyard perimeter, Fincantieri Bay Shipbuilding is collaborating with the city and state to ensure its plans are in full compliance before construction begins later this year.

“Bay Ship is a premier employer in our area that contributes greatly to the marine character of Sturgeon Bay and our surrounding communities,” Rep. Kitchens said. “We are very fortunate to have them here and I look forward to continuing my work in spurring further economic development in our region. I am very excited for what the future holds.”

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